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What a whirlwind the last month has been for all of us. We are definitely in a time of uncertainty, but we know libraries are part of the stabilizing foundation of a community and this time of crisis is no different. Our goal at the South Carolina State Library is to continue to deliver meaningful services to our patrons.

All of our staff are currently working from home as ordered by Governor McMaster. We were fortunate to have the necessary equipment to be able to work offsite, and even more fortunate to have an IT department that is second to none, who made the transition for staff as easy as possible. We had a few moments of complete despair and disappointment as we canceled program after program that had been planned months in advance, but I have been impressed with how quickly our staff adapted to working from home and began seeking innovative ways to engage our community.

Our Library Development department has been heavily involved in our South Carolina library community. They have been busy updating and adding training so that library staff can use this opportunity to learn something new, update a skill, or just maintain connections during this time of isolation. We have registered over 800 new accounts for our webinars in the last two weeks. Two of our most popular workshops have been "Little Hands Signing: Feeling Signs" and "Don't Sweat the Flops:

Virtual Workshop with Flow Circus". We have a waiting list for those two programs, but you can access other training opportunities on our website, under the calendar of events section <http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/events>.

While we are not currently circulating any books, including those for our Talking Book Services patrons, we are assisting patrons with access to books. Our Talking Book Services Reader Advisors have been making individual calls to assist patrons with downloading books directly to their own device by using the Braille and Audio Reading Download (Bard) app through the Library of Congress. For more information, you can look here: <https://www.sctalkingbook.org/collections>.

Discus, the "information place" for all South Carolinians is available for use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is an invaluable resource for children, families, and teachers, especially during this time of school closings. To further address the needs of children during this time, we temporarily added tutor.com, for one-to-one tutoring assistance for children who may need some assistance with their schoolwork. Tutor.com can be accessed through our Discus portal, www.scdiscus.org.

Our reference librarians have been busy as well during this time, fielding questions and assisting legislators and their staff, as they also continue to work, just off-site. Our communications team has continued to update our social media accounts with engaging information and add to our podcasts, which you can hear, here: <http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/category/podcast>.

As you can see, we are still very busy at the South Carolina State Library. Part of our identity as a state agency and library is to be nimble and flexible to the needs of our state. The current situation has tested that; none of this was planned, but we are responding in the best way that we can. We haven't thought of everything; there will be more to come, but be assured that we will continue to look for innovative ways to engage our community and deliver service.

For now, please stay home. Follow the direction of the CDC and South Carolina state government officials. Participate in one of our webinars, or use this time to learn something new by using our electronic resources, <http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/services>. We will come through this. We look forward to seeing you again until then, stay well, friends.



All the best,

Leesa Aiken
SCSL Agency Director

SC Libraries



Common Ground

Although it sometimes feels like you are alone while telecommuting, support is available. You share a common bond among library colleagues as each of you experiences similar challenges. Sometimes you crave a connection to share ideas, tips, and hacks, or perhaps even just to vent. We created a forum to meet this need. [Join us Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.](#) for an informal meeting of the minds via Zoom. Once

registered, you will receive a link to join the conversation. We may be social distancing, but we are always united.

Branch Out

Now is an ideal time to acquire different skills and find new ways to service patrons. Spanish is the most common foreign language spoken in South Carolina. Learn how to connect with this segment of your community by joining the bi-weekly [Spanish for Library Staff: Virtual Practice Group](#). The next session is April 6 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Each meeting is a learning and practice session that concentrates on library



vocabulary and phrases. Don't worry if this is your first time participating, you may [watch past sessions](#) to get a feel for the flow. ¡Inténtalo! (give it a try).



Keep Learning and Growing

The library may be closed, but that does not stop you from learning and serving. We are proud to offer PCI Webinars to aid with your library

development. Set aside time on Wednesday afternoons to explore ways to better serve your patrons and learn about new trends and technologies. On April 15, our team will show you how to [deliver black tie experiences](#) and turn patrons into brand ambassadors. Learn all that you need to know about [podcasting in an hour](#) on April 22. Finally, finish the month with [20 Tech Trends in 60 Minutes](#) on April 29. Your mind will be full of ideas and ready for that first day back in the building.

The Legal Side of Libraries

Whether you work in a public, law, or academic library, you are bound to encounter questions about legal research. Prepare yourself to handle these inquiries by participating in this month's SCLA webinars. Staff from the [University of South Carolina Law](#)



South Carolina Library Association

[Library](#) will break down how to research state and federal laws and will direct you toward resources that can help with common legal questions. Plus, learn how to stay within your boundaries when providing information to avoid any ethical and legal pitfalls. The more you know, the better prepared you will be for the next time you are asked a law-related question. Join us on [April 9 p.m. for Part I](#) and on [April 23 for Part II](#). Both webinars are from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

State Employees

Stay "In the Know" with USGPO and the FDLP Academy

The [U.S. Government Publishing Office](#) (GPO) is your link to government



documents. GPO distributes, free of cost, print and electronic documents through the [Federal Depository Library Program](#) (FDLP). A [fresh series of webinars from the FDLP](#) helps you turn these resources into useful tools. Scroll through the list to find the sessions that best suit your needs. For teachers, there is advice on how to build lessons with free government resources. Librarians will love the webinar on stocking your

library with no-cost government documents. You will even find tips for avoiding coronavirus frauds and scams. [Visit our website](#) for a complete list of this month's sessions.

SC Residents

tutor.com™

A Service of The Princeton Review



Homework Help

Help is available while learning at home, thanks to [Discus - South Carolina's Virtual Library](#).

We are pleased to offer free access to Tutor.com through June 30, 2020. [Tutor.com](#) connects students to expert tutors and career coaches in more than 80 subjects and test

prep areas. The Tutor.com K-12 Learning Suite includes live, one-to-one tutoring, a real-time writing center, test preparation, practice quizzes and 24/7 access to worksheets, videos and tutorials. Need help getting started? Each Wednesday in April at 10:00 a.m., [we offer a webinar](#) to help you learn how to use the platform. Also from now until August 31, 2020, students may use [Tumble Math and TeenBookCloud](#) for free. Tumble Math uses picture books to illustrate math concepts for students in kindergarten through Grade 6. TeenBookCloud targets grades 7 through 12 with a collection of books and resources. We are your information place... no matter where you learn.

Awards Ceremony Postponed

We would like to thank the nearly 300 students who entered the

2020 Young Minds Dreaming poetry contest. Your creativity in writing about this year's theme, "the joy of words" inspired our staff and judges. We altered our original plans because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of announcing the winners on March 31, we will release their names on April 17. The awards ceremony featuring guest poet Pat Mora is postponed until further notice. Again, we appreciate you sharing your amazing talents. They bring us joy during a difficult time.

Young Minds Dreaming

Student Poetry Contest

From Our Collection



Get to know [SC Read Eat Grow](#) even while at home. We scoured our digital collection and discovered recipes to help make distancing a little more delightful. Each easy recipe is fresh, fun, and flavorful. Look for videos demonstrating a new recipe in our weekly newsletters, [on YouTube](#) and on social media using the hashtag #SCReadEatGrow. This week we are cooking [Mediterranean Quinoa Salad](#). It's our way of staying in touch and bringing our collection to you.



Want more information about SC and its libraries?
It can be in your inbox every month.



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For more information on the South Carolina State Library, and a list of our board members, please visit the [About Us](#) section on our website. Visit our Digital Collections to [view previous issues of More](#). ISSN 1554-5768